

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8341

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4522

RUSNAAAUSCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; DURATION OF HOSTILITIES

REF: A. USNATO 5768 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 230776 (NOTAL)

MISSION CIRCULATED FOLLOWING PAPER ON DURATION OF HOSTILITIES AS
A KEY ELEMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, DRAWN FROM REFTELS, TO DRC
MEMBERS AT OCTOBER 22 MEETING. BEGIN TEXT.

1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WITH CONFIDENCE THE DURATION
OF CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS, SHOULD AGRESSION TAKE THIS FORM;
THEREFORE, PLANNING SHOULD TAKE THE FULL SPECTRUM OF SCENARIOS
(SHORT-LONG WAR) INTO ACCOUNT.

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2. DETERRENCE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THE WARSAW PACT REGARDED
NATO AS BEING ABLE TO OUTLAST IT IN TERMS OF COMBAT CONSUMABLES
READILY AVAILABLE FOR PLAUSIBLE CONVENTIONAL WAR SCENARIOS.
THERFORE, SUFFICIENT WAR RESERVE STOCKS SHOULD BE ON HAND TO

SUPPORT A STRONG, HOLDING CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE UNTIL THE INITIAL STOCKS OF THE WARSAW PACT ARE EXHAUSTED.

3. NATO SHOULD NOT BASE PEACETIME LOGISTICS PLANS ON AN ASSUMPTION THAT ESCALATION TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE AFTER A FEW DAYS OF CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH, IN FACT, ANY SCENARIO COULD ESCALATE TO THE NUCLEAR DIMENSION AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT A NEED FOR CONTINUED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS, NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY AND RELATED LOGISTICS PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ASSURE THAT THERE NEED NOT BE AN EARLY RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DIRECT DEFENSE ON ACCOUNT OF LOGISTIC WEAKNESS. END TEXT.

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To: STATE
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RUSNAAAUSCINCEUR
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